

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a. a terminal which generates a user request in a standardized object-based command language for access to a data base;
 - b. a legacy data base management system responsively coupled to said terminal which honors said user request by execution of a non-standardized command language to produce a result from a dataset within said data base;
 - c. a conversion facility for conversion of said standardized object-based command language to said non-standardized command language; and
 - d. a facility responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system which prepares said result for transfer to said terminal and which modifies said dataset if and only if specified in said service request.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said terminal is coupled to said legacy data base management system via a publicly accessible digital data communication network.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said user request specifies said dataset.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said publicly accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said standardized object-based command language further comprises a commonly available command language.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of utilizing a terminal to access a legacy data base management system having a data base employing a non-standardized command language comprising:

- a. transmitting a service request in a standardized object-based command language from said terminal requesting access to said data base of said legacy data base management system;
- b. receiving said service request by said legacy data base management system;
- c. converting said service request in said standardized object-based command language into said non-standardized command language;

- d. honoring said service request by executing said non-standardized command language to access a dataset from said data base by said legacy digital data base management system; and
- e. modifying said dataset if indicated by said service request.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dataset is specified by said service request.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein said transmitting step occurs over a publicly accessible digital data communication network.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said publicly accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said standardized object-based command language further comprises a commonly used command language.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing access to such legacy data base management systems using a standardized

object-based programming language to efficiently provide a resultant report comprising:

- a. permitting means for permitting a user to transfer a service request defined by a standardized object-based command language;
- b. offering means responsively coupled to said permitting means via said publicly accessible digital data communication network for offering legacy data base management services involving access to at least one dataset having a non-standard scripted command language;
- c. converting means responsively coupled to said offering means for converting said service request from said standardized object-base command language to said non-standardized scripted command language; [[and]]
- d. modifying means responsively coupled to said offering means for modifying said dataset if so indicated by said service request; and
- e. providing means for providing said resultant report to said user.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said dataset is specified by said service request.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising means located within said permitting means for generating a second service request.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said offering means further comprises a commercially available data base management system.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said permitting means further comprises an industry standard personal computer.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[In a]]~~ A data processing system having a terminal which generates a service request in a standardized object-based command language responsively coupled to a legacy data base management system which accesses a dataset to honor said service request by executing a non-standardized command language, ~~the improvement~~ comprising:

- a. a conversion facility responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system which converts said service request from said standardized object-based command language to said non-standardized command language; and
- b. a facility which modifies said dataset only if indicated by said service request.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data base management system according to claim 16 wherein said dataset is specified by said service request.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data base management system according to claim 17 wherein said terminal is responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system via a publicly accessible digital data communication network.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data base management system according to claim 18 wherein said publicly accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data base management system according to claim 19 wherein said standardized object-based command language further comprises a commonly utilized command language.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accessing a database comprising:

- a. a terminal which generates a user request in a standardized object-based command language which specifies access to a dataset within a data base;

- b. a legacy data base management system responsively coupled to said terminal via a publicly accessible digital data communication network which honors said user request by execution of a non-standardized command language to produce a result from said dataset;
- c. a conversion facility for conversion of said standardized object-based command language to said non-standardized command language; and
- d. a facility responsively coupled to said legacy data base management system which prepares said result for transfer to said [[user]] terminal and which modifies said dataset if and only if specified in said service request